



# HOWARD COUNTY CEMETERY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

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*Administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning*

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## September 2016 Minutes

### **Tuesday, September 13, 2016; 10:00 -11:30 a.m.**

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The bi-monthly meeting of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 in the Ilchester room at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland.

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**Members Present:** Mike Bennett, Fred Dorsey, Liz Larney, Chip Plitt

**Absent:** Lee Preston, Dottie Moore, Matthew Smithson

**Staff Present:** Beth Burgess, Ken Short, Yvette Zhou

**Public:** Edward Glawe, David Zinner

### **General Topics**

#### **Board Updates:**

- Ms. Burgess passed out new materials for the CPAB Member packet. Members will bring their package back during the next meeting to have the new materials bounded in the booklet.
- In the upcoming November meeting, there will be nominations for CPAB Chair position that will be a 1 year duration from November 2016-November 2017. Ms. Burgess asked the Board members to think about his/her availability since the Chair will be more involved in setting the agenda, attending a few extra meetings like County Council testimony, and signing letters on behalf of the Board. Ms. Burgess asked for those who are interested to send her an email before November's meeting.

#### **Grant Update:**

- Previously Ms. Burgess asked the Howard County Genealogical Society (HCGS) to be the recipient to the grant. Mr. Davis Gardner who is new in his role as the President of HCGS expressed concerns with workload and role in moving forward with the grant. Ms. Burgess also spoke with Ms. Eileen McGuckian who is the President of the Coalition to Protect MD Burial Sites. Ms. McGuckian expressed full support of the grant and Howard County's CPAB efforts but expressed the grant should be managed at a local level by Howard County people but is willing to support of grant efforts. Ms. Burgess stated Mr. Lewis Taylor, the current Historic Preservation Commission attorney agreed to help with the grant agreement in the absence of an attorney for CPAB. Ms.

Burgess will send the grant draft information to HCGS for a review of the application to decide if they will remain the recipients of this grant.

- Ms. Larney requested the grant forms to be sent to all the board members for review to finalize before the Genealogical society by October.

### **2016 Events & Outreach:**

Mr. Zinner and Ms. Larney handed out grant information at the Hands on History Day at the Howard County Fair last month. Although the topic of cemetery preservation was hard to draw attendees' interests particularly with children, it is still worth attending future events. Mr. Plitt offered support to see Hands on History to return to the Fair.

- Ms. Zinner was not present at today's meeting to share about Outreach.
- Ms. Burgess stated there were still plans to meet with local churches and communities to have a spring clean-up for cemeteries in the spring of 2017.

### **Cemetery Survey and plan for the future**

- Mr. Short said there was a potential cemetery at 9275 Vollmerhausen Road in the rear of the house outside a fenced area. A few footstones with initials were found but the name on the stone is unknown although it seems to be "Washington" as the name. The area is owned by Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. Mr. Short plans to revisit the site again with Mr. Dorsey to gather more details.
- Ms. Burgess has been working to arrange a meeting with Mr. Glawe and Mr. Jeff Bronow, Research Division Chief, DPZ, to update the Howard County Historic Cemetery Map to become an interactive map.

### **Cemetery Updates:**

Redd & Sipes Property, ElkrIDGE:

There were gravestone discovered by Elm Street Development in 2015. The development is located at 5920 Florey Road and the periwinkle area covers more than a half-acre. Headstones were found and ground penetrating radar found anomalies in the ground. The original plan was to keep burials within an open space area. However, the developer proposed to disinter the remains and reinter the remains at another cemetery. The developer met with Mr. Lazdins, Director of DPZ, September 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss four alternative compliance issues. Mr. Lazdins stated in the meeting that he needed more time to review the issues. Ms. Burgess made a request to the Office of Law to have a staff attorney present on future CPAB meetings to further discuss cemetery law.

Mr. Dorsey, as President of Howard County Preservation, sent a letter to Mr. Lazdins stating the groups opposition to the developer's proposal to remove the remains. The CPAB also recommends preserving the burials on open space. Last week, the developer emailed Mr. Dorsey to ask the difference between a cemetery vs. burial ground. Mr. Dorsey responded and stated there was no difference. Mr. Dorsey referenced to the Howard County Cemetery Guidelines Sub title 13 which states that a cemetery should not be moved "to achieve a development's maximum density". The Board will wait to hear Mr. Lazdins' decision.

Mr. Short found the possible names on the headstone which were worn down. The land was first purchased in 1845 by Charles Reimensnider. He remarried after his first wife past away. Charles Reimensnider's grave cannot be found but presumably he is buried with his wife. His son, George, retained the rights to the cemetery. It is possible this is a family cemetery with four or five people buried there from the Reimensnider lineage.

Mr. Dorsey referenced past cases such as the Rhine cemetery's request for relocation because the current property owner was troubled by the inappropriate location of the burial. However, the Elm Street development's proposal to remove burials is for maximized development. Mr. Dorsey will write to the Maryland's State's Attorney to request their criteria for making a decision for allowing disinternment.

Mr. Bennett asked the Board to establish the criteria for the CPAB to determine what qualifies a burial to remain and what can be removed for future cases. Mr. Glawe offered to provide the Board with a detailed summary of the State & County laws for cemetery/burials by the November meeting to be used for drafting the criteria. Ms. Larney offered to review other county and state law.

Mr. Bennett shared how past Howard County State's Attorneys had viewed cemetery/burial grounds. If the burial limits could not be defined, then preserve it; but when the burial boundaries are defined, they could be relocated. Mr. Dorsey said if the decision is made to remove the burials, a Code revision should be made so that disinternment cannot occur until construction starts. For example, the Walnut Creek development went through several developers and new a developer may change the design of the plan and/or change their mind on preserving the burial instead of removing it so moving graves immediately, could be premature.

Ms. Burgess finished the discuss on the Redd & Sipes property by stating the Reimensnider burial is documented and found in Deeds and Wills and is now a known cemetery instead of an unidentifiable grave. Prior to remains being relocated, the developer is required to post one legal ad in a local paper for fifteen days notifying family members. Ms. Burgess will discuss these requirements with Land Development and the Director of DPZ so that this process is followed.

**Additional Items:**

None

Meeting Adjourned at 11:25am.

**Next Steps/Action Items:**

- Board will bring back members packet to have new documents be rebounded.
- Ms. Burgess to send out grant drafts for review to Board and then HCGS.
- Ms. Burgess to set aside most of November's agenda in drafting criteria for review process.
- Mr. Glawe offered to provide the Board with a detailed summary of the State & County laws for cemetery/burials by the November meeting to be used for drafting the criteria.
- Ms. Larney offered to review other county and state law.
- Mr. Zinner to update on Outreach

**Upcoming meetings**

- Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 10am in the George Howard Building.
- Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 10am in the George Howard Building.